Appl. No. 10/052,094   APP 1365
Amdt. Dated August 9, 2005
Reply to Office action of June 17, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the applications:

Listing of claims

Claims 1-18 (cancelled)

Claim 19 (currently amended) A communication system comprising

~~a local network having~~ a first communication device ~~thereon~~, said first communication device having a primary IP address,

a plurality of second communication devices ~~that are external to the local network and~~ connectable ~~through~~ to a public network,

security access blocking apparatus that provides the first communication device access to the public network and separates the first and second communication devices, said security blocking apparatus normally allowing outgoing communication from said first communication device but normally disallowing incoming communication to said first communication device, and

a secure hub including routing and switching functions, interfaces to the public network, means in response to the first communication device for establishing a single virtual pipe between said secure hub and the first communication device for tunneling communication and bypassing said security access blocking apparatus, and means for assigning a secondary IP address to said first communication device and associating said secondary IP address with said established single virtual pipe. ~~whereby said secondary IP address gives said first communication device a second appearance on said local network.~~

Claim 20 (new) The communication system in accordance with claim 19 further including means defining a pool of available IP addresses, said secure hub obtaining said secondary IP address from said IP address defining pool means.

Claim 21 (new) A communication system comprising

a firewall,

a first communication device behind said firewall and having a primary IP address, said firewall normally allowing outgoing communications from said first communication device but normally disallowing incoming communications to said first communication device,

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a public network,

a plurality of second communication devices connectable through said public network, said public network being between said second communication devices and said first communication device,

a secure hub, said secure hub including

interfaces connecting said secure hub to the public network,

means in response to the first communication device for establishing a single virtual pipe between the first communication device and said secure hub,

a pool of available IP addresses, and

means for assigning an IP address from said pool to the established single virtual pipe, whereby the first communication device has a secondary IP address,

means for routing communications from any of the second communication devices and addressed to the first communication device to the established virtual pipe utilizing the assigned secondary IP address; and

means for tunneling said communications over the established virtual pipe to the first communication device thereby bypassing said firewall.

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